

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Set forth below in ascending order, with status identifiers, is a complete listing of all claims currently under examination. Changes to any amended claims are indicated by strikethrough and underlining. This listing also reflects any cancellation and/or addition of claims.*

1. (currently amended) A computerized method for configuring a network device that includes a local configuration record, wherein the local configuration record is in a format that is understandable to the network device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a network-condition notification, wherein the network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition;

determining a response to the network condition notification;

searching a common repository for a central configuration record corresponding to the network device, wherein the central configuration record is one of a plurality of configuration records stored in the common repository, each of the plurality of configuration records uniquely, substantially and generically representing a local configuration of a corresponding one of the plurality of network devices;

retrieving, in response to the determined response to the network condition, the a central configuration record from a the common repository of configuration records, the central configuration record uniquely, substantially and generically representing the local configuration record of the network device;

modifying the central configuration record in accordance with the determined response to the network condition so as to generate a modified central configuration record;

storing the modified central configuration record in the common repository;

generating at least one device-specific command corresponding to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-specific command is in a format that is native to the network device; wherein generating the at least one device-specific command comprises:

retrieving a device-specific command template, wherein the device-specific command template comprises at least one variable field; and

populating the at least one variable field with data included in the modified central configuration record; and

transferring the generated at least one device-specific command via a network to the network device, wherein the device-specific command includes at least one instruction to change the local configuration record of the network device such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in a modification to the local configuration record, which enables the network device to assist in responding to the network condition.

2. Cancelled

3. (previously presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

publishing a message to an event bus;

wherein the published message indicates that the retrieved central configuration record has been modified.

4. (previously presented) The computerized method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.

5. (previously presented) The computerized method of claim 4, further comprising the step of:

publishing a work order in response to verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
verifying the successful completion of the step of transferring the generated at least one device-specific command to the network device.

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 1, wherein the retrieved central configuration record indicates that the network device is from a particular manufacturer, and wherein the retrieved device-specific command template is unique to the particular manufacturer.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 1, wherein the retrieved central configuration record indicates that the network device is a particular device type and wherein the retrieved device-specific command template is unique to the particular device type.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of retrieving the central configuration record comprises the step of:  
retrieving the central configuration record from a distributed common repository.

Claims 12- 24. (cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A system for configuring a network device that includes a local configuration record, wherein the local configuration record is in a format that is understandable to the network device, the system comprising:

at least a first processing element configured to execute instructions;

at least a first memory device electronically coupled with the at least a first processing element; and

a plurality of instructions stored on the memory device, the plurality of instructions configured to cause the at least a first processing element to perform the steps of:

receiving a network-condition notification, wherein the network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition;

determining a response to the network condition notification;

searching a common repository for a central configuration record corresponding to the network device, wherein the central configuration record is one of a plurality of configuration records stored in the common repository, each of the plurality of configuration records uniquely,

substantially and generically representing a local configuration of a corresponding one of the plurality of network devices;

retrieving, in response to the determined response to the network condition, the a central configuration record from a the common repository of configuration records, the central configuration record uniquely, substantially and generically representing the local configuration record of the network device;

modifying the central configuration record in accordance with the determined response to the network condition so as to generate a modified configuration record;

storing the modified central configuration record in the common repository;

generating at least a first device-specific command corresponding to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-specific command is in a format that is native to the network device; and

transferring the generated first device-specific command via a network to the network device wherein the device-specific command includes at least one command to change the local configuration record of the network device such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in a modification to the local configuration record, which enables the network device to assist in responding to the network condition;

wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the at least a first processor to generate the at least a first device-specific command by:

retrieving a device-specific command template, wherein the device-specific command template comprises at least one variable field; and

populating the at least one variable field with data included in the modified central configuration record;

wherein the retrieved central configuration record indicates that the network device is from a particular manufacturer and wherein the retrieved device-specific command template is unique to the particular manufacturer.

26. Cancelled

27. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of:

publishing a message to an event bus;

wherein the published message indicates that the retrieved central configuration record has been modified.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of:  
verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of:  
publishing a work order to an event bus in response to verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of:  
verifying the successful completion of the step of transferring the generated first device-specific command to the network device.

31. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the plurality of instructions are further configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of:  
receiving an event notification at an event bus, the event notification being generated by the network device;  
wherein the step of retrieving the configuration record is initiated in response to the receiving of the event notification at the event bus.

32. – 33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the retrieved central configuration record indicates that the network device is a particular device type and wherein the retrieved device-specific command template is unique to the particular device type.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the plurality of instructions are configured to cause the at least a first processor to perform the step of retrieving the central configuration record by:  
retrieving the central configuration record from a distributed common repository.

36. – 37. (cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for configuring a network device that includes a local configuration record, wherein the local configuration record is in a format that is understandable to the network device, the method comprising:

receiving a network-condition notification, wherein the network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition;

determining a response to the network condition notification;

searching a common repository for a central configuration record corresponding to the network device, wherein the central configuration record is one of a plurality of configuration records stored in the common repository, each of the plurality of configuration records uniquely, substantially and generically representing a local configuration of a corresponding one of the plurality of network devices;

retrieving, in response to the determined response to the network condition, the a central configuration record from a the common repository of configuration records, the retrieved central configuration record uniquely, substantially and generically representing the local configuration record of the network device;

modifying the retrieved central configuration record in accordance with the determined response to the network condition so as to generate a modified central configuration record;

storing the modified central configuration record in the common repository;

generating at least one device-specific command corresponding to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-specific command is in a format that is native to the network device;

transferring the generated at least one device-specific command via a network to the network device, wherein the device-specific command includes at least one instruction to change the local configuration record of the network device such that a modification in the central

configuration record is reflected in a modification to the local configuration record, which enables the network device to assist in responding to the network condition.; and

wherein the step of generating the at least one device-specific command comprises the steps of:

retrieving a device-specific command template, wherein the device-specific command template comprises at least one variable field; and

populating the at least one variable field with data included in the modified central configuration record;

wherein the retrieved central configuration record indicates that the network device is from a particular manufacturer, and wherein the retrieved device-specific command template is unique to the particular manufacturer.

39. (previously presented) The computerized method of claim 38, further comprising: verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.

40. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for configuring a network device that includes a local configuration record, wherein the local configuration record is in a format that is understandable to the network device, the method comprising:

receiving a network-condition notification, wherein the network-condition notification is indicative of a network condition;

determining a response to the network condition notification based upon predefined policies;

searching a distributed common repository for a central configuration record corresponding to the network device, wherein the central configuration record is one of a plurality of configuration records stored in the common repository, each of the plurality of configuration records uniquely, substantially and generically representing a local configuration of a corresponding one of the plurality of network devices;

retrieving, in response to the determined response to the network condition, the a central configuration record from a the distributed common repository of configuration records, the retrieved central configuration record uniquely, substantially and generically representing the local configuration record of the network device;

modifying the retrieved central configuration record in accordance with the determined response to the network condition so as to generate a modified central configuration record;

storing the modified central configuration record in the common repository;

generating at least one device-specific command corresponding to the modified central configuration record, wherein the device-specific command is in a format that is native to the network device; wherein generating the at least one device-specific command comprises:

retrieving a device-specific command template, wherein the device-specific command template comprises at least one variable field; and

populating the at least one variable field with data included in the modified central configuration record; and

transferring the generated at least one device-specific command via a network to the network device, wherein the device-specific command includes at least one instruction to change the local configuration record of the network device such that a modification in the central configuration record is reflected in a modification to the local configuration record, which enables the network device to assist in responding to the network condition.

41. (cancelled)

42. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

verifying that the modified central configuration record complies with a network policy.